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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/507,255	09/28/2004	Paul Allen Sutton	PC/4-32405A	6345
1095	7590	05/11/2007		
NOVARTIS CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3 EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080			EXAMINER LAO, MARIALOUISA	
			ART UNIT 1621	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/507,255

Applicant(s)

SUTTON ET AL.

Examiner

MLouisa Lao, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/1/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

**Claims 23-24 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph – scope of enablement, because the specification, while being enabling for the method of treatment of diabetes, does not reasonably provide enablement for the method of treatment of cardiovascular diseases or conditions associated therewith. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. *A disclosed species can not support a generic claim.*

The factors to be considered [in making an enablement rejection] have been summarized as a) the quantity of experimentation necessary, b) the amount of direction or guidance presented, c) the presence or absence of working examples, d) the nature of the invention, e) the state of the prior art, f) the relative skill of those in the art, g) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and, h) the breadth of the claims.

3. In the present case, the important factors leading to a conclusion of undue experimentation are the absence of any working example of a method for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases or conditions associated therewith, the lack of predictability in the art, the amount of direction and guidance provided and the broad scope of the claim.

*a) the amount of experimentation needed.* There is a plurality of cardiovascular diseases or conditions associated therewith. In the same light the method of treatment, dose, form of

Art Unit: 1621

administration, the quantity of experiments and corresponding clinical trials thereto, would likewise be numerous.

*b) the amount of direction and guidance provided.* The specification on page 18-22 recites the *in vivo* tests in mice for blood glucose control and illustrates *in vivo* test for HbA<sub>1c</sub>.

*c) the presence or absence of working examples.* There are no working examples of method for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases or conditions associated therewith.

*d) the nature of the invention and the e) the state of the prior art.* Compounds of the nateglinide, free-form and as pharmaceutically acceptable salt form as recited in the instant claims are known, see Guitard et al. (US694955, US'555).

*f) the relative skill of those in the art.* The skilled artisans are synthetic organic chemists and clinical pharmacists with graduate degrees and potentially with many years of research and industrial experience.

*g) the predictability or unpredictability of the art.* The state of the art of method of treatment is unpredictable, since this art is largely empirical, which requires fulfilling a rationale for the optimization of absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of a drug. Determining whether a compound meets the attributes of a useful prodrug entails substantial clinical testing with laborious experimentation. See Goodman & Gilman's *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*". 10<sup>th</sup> ed. NY McGraw Hill 2001 p3.

*h) the breadth of the claim.* Claims 23 and 24 recite method for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases or conditions associated therewith. These are broad. Further, it is unclear whether the applicants intend to encompass all conditions associated with cardiovascular diseases. The recitation of disorders like, *inter alia*, cataracts, erectile dysfunction, premenstrual syndrome,

Art Unit: 1621

skin and connective tissue disorders, osteoporosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, stroke are conditions that *may* not necessarily ensue from cardiovascular diseases.

2. MPEP 2164.01(a) states, "A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding each of the above factors, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation. In re Wright 999 F.2d 1557,1562, 27 USPQ2d 1510, 1513 (Fed.Cir.1993)." That conclusion is clearly justified here. Thus, undue experimentation will be required to practice Applicants' invention.

*Thus, the scope of enablement of the instant specification is not commensurate to the invention as recited.*

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claim 7 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In line 3 of claim 7, Applicants recite a reference to a Table IV in the specification; this is vague since the table refers to a plurality of compounds.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 1621

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. **Claims 1-24 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guitard et al. (US6949555, US'555).

***Applicant Claims***

9. The instant claims are drawn to a salt of nateglinide, with physical attributes, relative to melting point and solubility; and chemical attributes, relative to cation to anion ratios, thereto as recited therein.

***Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art  
(MPEP §2141.01)***

10. US'555 teaches the use of organic compounds, where said compounds are hypolipidemic agents or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for, *inter alia*, diabetes, microvascular complications, cardiovascular mortality. In column 9 lines 30-52, US'555 states that the said compounds like, *inter alia*, nateglinide, repaglinide, metformin, may be used for separate use or as a fixed combination. In lines 5-16 column 10, US'555 teaches that said compounds to be combined can be present as pharmaceutically

Art Unit: 1621

acceptable salts including, *inter alia*, acid addition salts and exemplified therein is *nateglinide forming pharmaceutically acceptable salts with bases, namely cationic salts, such as alkali and alkaline earth metal salts, as well as ammonium salts*. In column 10 lines 49-54, US'555 describes the doses for use of said compound are those that are being used for agents that have already been launched. In column 12 US'555 teaches the method as for example in lines 52-55, *inter alia*, for treating conditions and diseases associated with IGM (Impaired Glucose Metabolism) or IFG (Impaired Fasting Glucose) comprising administering a nateglinide agent or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to subjects in need thereof.

***Ascertainment of the Difference  
Between Scope of the Prior Art and the Claims  
(MPEP §2141.012)***

11. Albeit, US'555 is silent on explicitly describing the physical and chemical attributes of the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of said compounds (like nateglinide), including the ratio of cation to anion to make said salt compositions, the Examiner takes the stand that the salts of US'555 are the same as the instant application's, absent a comparative showing to attest thereto of the difference.

***Finding of Prima Facie Obviousness Rational and Motivation  
(MPEP §2142-2143)***

12. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art looking for acceptable forms of nateglinide would have found it obvious to utilize the teachings of US'555 in making the salts of nateglinide. US'555 has shown that the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of nateglinide can be made.

13. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the salts of nateglinide, and reached a reasonable expectation of success; since US'555 has show that the

Art Unit: 1621

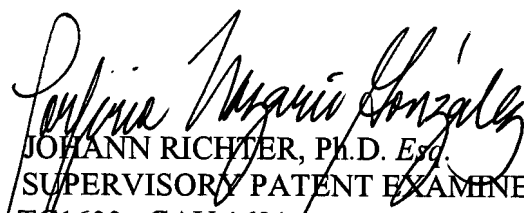
free or salt forms are efficacious singly as active agents or in combination with other organic hypolipidemic agents.

14. The teachings of the cited prior art are fairly suggestive of the *prima facie* obviousness of the instant claims, as recited.

### *Correspondence*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MLouisa Lao, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-9930. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Fridays from 8:30am to 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Johann Richter, *Esq.*, can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit 1621

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